

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Policy 7-12, School Attendance Areas

ITEM NO: 9A

PREPARED BY: Andre' A. Nougaret 
Assistant Superintendent
for Support Services

MEETING: February 24, 2004
ACTION DATE: February 24, 2004

John David Bondurant
Supervisor of Planning & GIS

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: That the School Board receive for approval revisions made to Policy 7-12, School Attendance Areas.

KEY POINTS:

- ❖ Four schools are scheduled to open in the fall of 2005.
- ❖ Redistricting for these schools is scheduled to commence in the spring.
- ❖ Policy revision incorporates amendments to those considerations that govern the process, a clearly delineating process and a newly formed redistricting committee.
- ❖ Redistricting committee will be comprised of a representative group and will be established for each new school to review, analyze and enhance redistricting options.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL: #4—Address the impact of continuing population growth by developing plans to address expanding staff, facilities, transportation, attendance zones, and instruction.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: N/A

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STUDENTS

School Attendance Areas Redistricting

Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Stafford County School Board annually shall designate attendance areas. ~~The primary considerations that govern the establishment of a school attendance zone area are the following:~~

A. Redistricting Considerations

When the redistricting of students is necessary the primary considerations that may govern the establishment of a school attendance area shall include the following:

- ~~1. The geographic location of each school in relation to the surrounding student population.~~
- ~~2. Major traffic thoroughfares and natural barriers.~~
- ~~3. The safety of the students, both those who may walk to school and those who are to be transported by bus.~~
1. Location: Assign students to the school closest to their home whereby minimizing transportation distances and avoiding major traffic thoroughfares and natural barriers whenever possible. Such redistricting assignments will take into account the safety of affected students including both those who may walk and those who are transported by bus.
- ~~4. The size of the school in relation to the number of students in the area.~~
2. Balance: Achieve a balance in the size of student populations (looking forward 4-6 yrs where possible) within each school relative to the student capacities of individual facilities.
3. Minimum Disruption: Move the fewest students possible while attempting to avoid multiple moves of the same students or neighborhoods over time.
- ~~5. The desire of the board to include entire communities or subdivisions.~~
4. Subdivision Integrity: Keep subdivisions (or naturally/traditionally grouped areas) in the same school whenever possible.
5. Feeder Patterns: Keep groups of students together from elementary to middle to high school whenever possible.
- ~~6. Other factors that the board considers germane to the education of the students or their safety.~~

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Although it is the intent of the board to establish attendance areas that will permit the student to attend the school nearest his or her home, situations may arise that will require the transportation of the student to a school other than the one he or she would normally be expected to attend. Overcrowded conditions in a school, the opening of a new school or the requirements of State or federal regulations may mean changing attendance areas or making exceptions to the existing attendance areas.

B. Redistricting Process

The following process shall be executed when redistricting is required in a manner that best addresses the needs of affected students. While the process is sequential, some activities will occur concurrently.

Enrollment and Capacity Analysis — 4-6 Months: Planning Department completes five-year enrollment projection, while assessing current and projected individual school capacities. Analysis and forecasting is employed to determine those facilities projected to be over, or under, capacity. When redistricting of students is necessary the superintendent is provided with option(s) worthy of further consideration. When the redistricting of students is necessary the superintendent will establish a committee to consider redistricting options. A period of review commences.

Redistricting Committee Review and Input — 1-2 Months: Will respond to staff recommendations with review, analysis and suggestions provided to enhance the proposed redistricting options. Committee deliberations will conclude with a determination of a preferred option(s) if possible. Preferred option(s) are then shared with the public through public hearings.

Redistricting Committee Public Hearings — 2 Months: Committee holds public hearings on proposed redistricting option(s) reflecting the committee's input. The Redistricting Committee and the School Board will receive input and may adjust proposed redistricting option(s) resulting in a recommendation to the superintendent.

School Board Adoption — 1 Month: Superintendent presents proposed redistricting to the School Board. School Board adopts proposed redistricting changes.

Data Update and Dispersion — 2-3 Months: Adopted redistricting changes are updated within various data systems in the division and corresponding reporting and student information is appropriately dispersed.

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C. Redistricting Committee

A committee shall be formed to assist in the redistricting process. The committee membership will include but is not limited to:

1. Parents and other representatives from impacted attendance zones
2. Principal(s)
3. School Board Staff
4. Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Committee, or a committee designee
5. Teacher(s)
6. Student(s) (high school when high zones are adjusted and an 8th grader when middle zones are adjusted.)

Staff will initially provide the committee with redistricting options for consideration. Following committee review preferred option(s) will be shared during public hearings to follow.

D. Support for Recommendations

Recommendations of the staff and superintendent will be supported with current and projected enrollment data, facility capacity analysis, school transportation travel time data, Capital Improvements Program (CIP) data, local subdivision and housing data, DOE Triennial Census Data, and any other sources deemed appropriate by the School Board, Superintendent or staff.

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STUDENTS

School Attendance Areas (continued)

Legal Reference: (1985) *§22.1-79 amended at subsection 4. Subsection 7 is new.*

Code of Va., § 22.1-79. Powers and duties. –“A school board shall:...4. Provide for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopt pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division;

- ...
7. Obtain public comment through a public hearing not less than ten days after reasonable notice to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division prior to providing for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of fifteen percent or more of the pupils in average daily membership in the affected school. Such public hearing may be held at the same time and place as the meeting of the school board at which the proposed action is taken if the public hearing is held before the action is taken. School division having 15,000 pupils or less in average daily membership shall not be required to comply with this provision. If a public hearing has been held prior to the effective date of this provision on a proposed pupil assignment plan which is to be implemented after the effective date of this provision, an additional public hearing shall not be required.” (1985)

Adopted by School Board: March 24, 1987